



CAREC Institute Newsletter

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New CAREC Institute Deputy Director One on Board

Dr. Huang Jing Jing (featured on the photo) joins the CAREC Institute as the new Deputy Director One.

Dr. Huang graduated with BA (1991) and MA (1994) in Economics and holds PhD in management (2000) from Xiamen University. She worked as Deputy Director of the Teaching and Research Center, Director of Academic Affairs, Assistant President and Vice President of Xiamen National Accounting Institute.

With ten years at an accounting firm, and over twenty years of academic experience in accounting and audit in higher education, Dr. Huang holds the title of the national leading accountant (academic) and the outstanding teacher in Xiamen. She is a member of the Internal Control Standards Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), a council member of the Accounting Society of China and the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She is also a distinguished professor with strong expertise in audit, financial fraud prevention, and internal controls.



The CAREC Institute Annual Report 2021

The CAREC Institute Governing Council approved the Institute's Annual Report 2021 which provides overview of the Institute's research, capacity building, and advocacy work in the past year, and offers outlook on year 2022.

It summarizes the Institute's work across numerous activities, such as the COVID-19 related policy advice for member governments; listing in the Think Tanks & Pandemic Policy Advice report by the University of Pennsylvania for years 2020-2021; launch of annual research conference; the fifth think tanks development forum; four research projects under the CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN); five research projects under the Visiting Fellow Program; eleven research reports on vaccination attitudes, regional integration, fintech, e-commerce, tourism, small and medium enterprises, water and sanitation, vocational education, trans-Caspian connectivity, infrastructure financing, and trade facilitation topics; three quarterly economic monitors; delivery of 18 workshops and webinars; and many more. The report will soon be available [here](#).



Sustainable Pathways to Energy Transitioning in the CAREC Region

In 2021, the CAREC Institute commissioned a research to explore the governance perspective of sustainable pathways to energy transitioning in the CAREC region. The report is getting ready for release and will soon be available [here](#). This research defines policy objectives and identifies opportunities for regional cooperation to optimize the use of renewable energy resources and grid networks to balance demand and supply across the region and minimize market and regulatory risks for prospective investors.

Assuming that the fleet of generating assets were to continue to operate at efficiency factors observed in 2018, and if each country in the CAREC region were to attempt to attain self-sufficiency in generation, the region would require addition of an estimated 192,000 MW in incremental capacity by year 2030 to replace some 80,000 MW of fossil fuel fired generation and to meet emission reduction commitments. Meeting the region-wide aggregated demand necessitates addition of about 153,000 MW of non-hydro renewable energy options. In this scenario, the PRC is presumed to serve as the ultimate residual consumer and supplier, absorbing surpluses and bridging deficits in the region, thereby pre-empting the build-up of a large storage capacity on the one side and construction of peaking plants on the other.

Region-wide institutions would be required to achieve the region-wide optimization, real-time matching of the region-wide demand and supply by the regional load dispatch center. In addition, a specially constituted regional entity could facilitate and implement the renewable energy procurement and contracting processes and execute emission reduction contracts. Such entity could then serve to distribute accruing emission reduction revenues to help subsidize the vulnerable sections of populations across the region. Read more in the detailed report which will soon be available on our website.

Participation in the Multi-Modal Logistics Conference

Director Syed Shakeel Shah at the conference in Islamabad, 9 March 2022.



On 9 March 2022, the CAREC Institute Director Syed Shakeel Shah participated in the multimodal logistics conference in Islamabad titled “Trade Growth of Pakistan through Multimodal Logistics” which was opened by the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi. Director Shah presented on the topic of trade opportunities through regional transport networks.

The conference was attended by federal ministers, federal secretaries of different ministries/divisions, senior government officials, representatives of renowned logistics organizations along with stakeholders and members of business community. Director Shah featured findings of the Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) mechanism and presented recommendations to address border crossing inefficiencies in Pakistan which included, among others, conducting proactive trade diplomacy to complement geo-economic strategy; integration with regional single windows; early implementation of TFA commitments for joint inspection at borders; approval and priority implementation of national freight logistics policy; enhanced use of smart parks and tags; full operationalization of Ghulam Khan border-crossing point to decongest Torkham; improvement of railway infrastructure, and more.

Launch of Knowledge Sharing Series in Cross-Border e-Commerce

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSII) and the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS), launched a multi-session training series on cross-border e-commerce for national technical vocational educational and training (TVET) institutions of CAREC countries and other interested professionals on 5 March 2022. In March, the course covered the topic of operation of global cross-border e-commerce platforms. Mr. Luo Jiaying, cross-border e-commerce expert, provided a hands-on guidance about the operation of

AliExpress, explained how to establish and run an online store. Ms. Liu Yanli, another leading cross-border e-commerce expert from the PRC, guided the participants on the operation of Shopee (a global e-commerce platform popular in Southeast Asia) and provided a quantitative analysis in product pricing.

Trainings get delivered every Saturday at 3-6 pm (UTC+8) **until 2 July 2022**. Chinese, English, and Russian simultaneous interpretation is available. All recordings are available on the CAREC Institute [e-learning platform](#).

You can join any time through this registration [link](#).

E-Commerce in CAREC Countries: Infrastructure Development

The ADB and CAREC Program released a joint study which examines the state of e-commerce infrastructure among CAREC countries looking at internet payment systems, delivery, and logistics infrastructure.

Digital trade promotion has been a long-standing priority for CAREC members to support their integration into global value chains and economic diversification. The study underscores the importance of enabling legislation, digital literacy, and creation of trust. Comprehensive strategy; adequate data for policy making; and support for e-commerce ecosystems, industry associations, and start-ups could nurture e-commerce markets. In addition, CAREC countries must leverage international and regional initiatives to expand domestic and cross-border e-commerce and promote digital trade. Read more [here](#).

Announcement: Annual Research Conference 2022



Organized in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the second CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference takes place in a virtual mode on **11-12 April 2022** under the title “Resilience and Economic Growth in Times of High Uncertainty in the CAREC Region.”

This two-day virtual research conference will bring together researchers and government representatives, also international development experts from the CAREC region and beyond to discuss green economy, business risks, regional cooperation, agriculture, and food security.

The event will also feature the launch of the [joint ADBI - CAREC Institute Annual Book](#)

(which summarizes output of the 2021 annual research conference) and a panel discussion on the topic of revitalizing regional cooperation for green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery.

Register [here](#) to participate.

Upcoming Workshops

Road Safety Engineering: Turkmenistan

The CAREC Institute will conduct a country-specific online road safety workshop targeting government officials and road safety experts from Turkmenistan during **12-28 April 2022**.

Given the context of the six transport corridors of the CAREC Program, land connectivity is transforming the paradigms of industrial development and growth within the region and beyond. The CAREC Program alone has mobilized \$37 billion investment in the region thus far, 78% of which went into overland systems of the transport sector. The CAREC road corridor network is set to expand for better connectivity; thus, road safety plays a major role in operating the corridors at their optimal capacity.

The CAREC countries made the road safety a collective regional priority at the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference in October 2016 when they adopted the [regional road safety strategy 2017–2030](#). The strategy aims to reduce fatalities on CAREC roads by 50% by 2030, as compared with 2010.

This country-specific workshop aims at sharing the best practices in road safety engineering, including treating hazardous road locations (black spots), road safety audits, roadside hazard management, and safety at road work sites. It will equip participants with necessary resources to advocate for changes in policies and practices that may be required at the national level.

This event continues the series of road safety workshops that started in Dushanbe in 2017, followed by manuals in 2018 on [road safety audit](#), [safer road works](#), [roadside hazard management](#), [pedestrian safety](#), and workshops [in Bishkek](#) in March 2019, [in Tbilisi](#) in April 2019, [in Hohhot](#), Inner Mongolia autonomous region of the PRC, in September 2019, [in Tbilisi](#) (for Afghanistan participants) in November 2019, an online workshop for Mongolian participants in May 2020 and for Kazakhstan participants in October 2021. Additionally, in March 2021, the CAREC Institute produced four Digital Learning Modules (DLMs) reflective of the four road safety manuals. All DLMs are available and accessible on the [CAREC Institute e-learning platform](#).

Register [here](#) for this workshop. All interested road safety professionals can participate.

CAREC Institute Water Dialogue Series

The CAREC Institute is set to continue the water dialogue series which started [in February 2022](#). This aims to facilitate an open discussion among leading regional water management experts on pathways to sustainable, climate adaptive water management systems in Central Asia.

The second water dialogue, in partnership with the ADB PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Chinese Academy of Sciences, will be held on **27 April 2022**. It will discuss “Water Footprint Analysis of Central Asia,” a study conducted by Water Footprint Implementation (WFI) with support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) within the scope of Blue Peace Initiative.

Water and agriculture experts also an interested wider audience from across the CAREC region and beyond are expected to participate and engage in this policy dialogue.

Register here to [participate](#).

Input-Output Analysis

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the ADB, will deliver a five-day virtual workshop on input-output analysis during **4-8 April 2022** for CAREC member government officials and analysts from think tanks and academic institutions to facilitate systematic data collection, enable generation of high-quality data-driven insights, and evidence-based policymaking.

Virtual Workshop

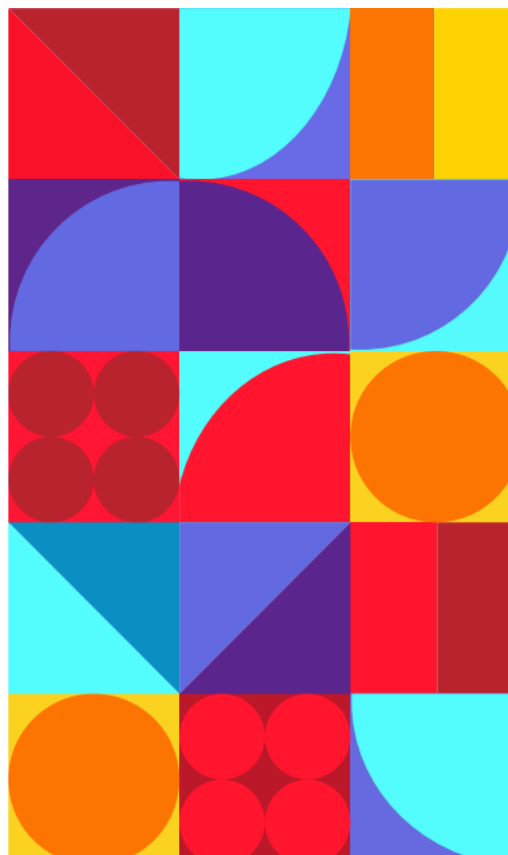
Input-Output Analysis

04-08 April 2022

13:00-16:00 (Beijing Time, UTC +08:00)

Register Via ZOOM

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The input-output framework provides guidance to develop policies, strategies, and plans for economic development. It helps generate deeper understanding of the state, functioning and evolution of economies and their individual sectors. This five-day virtual workshop consists of lecture series and hands-on training on input-output analysis and its applications. All participants will have access to ADB expert resources to resolve issues encountered during the application of the Input-output analysis in their daily work.

This workshop continues topical trainings which the CAREC Institute conducted in 2018 and 2019 on the system of national accounts, enhancing quality of key economic indicators, and economic globalization statistics. Those trainings aimed at strengthening capacity of relevant government officials to meet increasing data demands for policy making and monitoring of development goals and targets, and chart country specific courses of action for bridging those gaps. Earlier trainings focused on data collection compatibility with global standards such as SNA 2008, institutionalization of statistical business registers, global value chain statistics and analysis, compilation of extended supply and use tables, input-output tables, social accounting matrices, data availability (high-frequency data at disaggregated level) for economic transactions by industry and product to conduct evidence based policy analysis, institutionalization of statistical business registers, subnational disaggregation of SDGs, enhanced compilation of national accounts and other key economic indicators, provision of strategic

inputs for the modernization of national statistical systems to inform policy design and statistical capacity-building initiatives of the global statistical system.

The April 2022 sessions will be recorded and uploaded on the [CAREC Institute e-learning platform](#) for future access at the user convenience. English and Russian interpretation will be available throughout the workshop. Register [here](#).

Infrastructure Socioeconomic Spillover Assessment thru Big Data

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the ADBI, will conduct a virtual workshop on analyzing infrastructure impacts in Asia through big data from 16 to 18 May 2022. The invited experts will present how big data can be used to determine the spillover effects of infrastructure, also how to design or adjust policies to address project funding gaps.

The target audience includes relevant CAREC government officials, policymakers, and policy influencers who would benefit from expert presentations and engage in a policy dialogue with leading scholars of the field.

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be available throughout the workshop. Register [here](#) to participate.

Vacancies at the CAREC Institute

We are looking for a **Chief Economist** who would provide a regional perspective on current global trends, evaluate the impact of these on the region and individual member countries. The Chief Economist is expected to have solid knowledge of the region, be apt in statistical applications, produce publications, provide intellectual commentary to the media, etc. Apply [here](#) by 6 April 2022.

We are also looking for an **Economist** who will provide a broad range of economic research related to the five operational priorities of the CAREC 2030 strategy; monitor industrial and trade policies in support of regional economic cooperation and suggest solutions for their further development; monitor economic developments and measure progress in regional economic cooperation, among other. Apply [here](#) by 6 April 2022.